

MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballynew Outcrop
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballynew
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Castlebar
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	69, 70, 78, 79
ITM CO-ORDINATES	516970E 792010N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 31	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS. 6, 11
GIS Code MO006	

Outline Site Description

This site is located some 50m from the Castlebar-Swinford road, where limestone exposures occur alongside a minor road and in a river.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous age limestone bedrock (Castlebar River Limestone). Dark grey to black very fine-grained limestone with thin shaly interbeds and some coarser fossiliferous (crinoids) limestone and minor chert.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site comprises an outcrop of Castlebar River Limestone, which is an algal mat limestone found in the region of, and south of, Castlebar town. This exposure of limestone in a section of the Castlebar River occurs ~50m from the N5 Castlebar-Swinford road. The outcrop in the river section appears as a shelf of rock above the modified channel of the river. The rocks at the site are sediment-rich, laminated black micrites, which display evidence of dessication (drying) cracks and fossilized animal burrows.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Although not especially remarkable, this County Geological Site is a good exposure of the Castlebar River Limestone that exhibits fine examples of sedimentary features. It is a good site for teaching and research purposes.

Management/promotion issues

Any modification of the river channel or roadway could interfere with the site. The sedimentary features at the site are not easily identifiable, and as a result the site is not deemed ideal for public promotion.



Looking east along Castlebar River towards bridge, outcrop on river bank.



Bridge over Castlebar River.



Outcrop in river bed behind Tyre Centre at Ballynew.

